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AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EXCHANGE OF
GUIDED MISSILE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

18 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Guided Missile Intelligence Committee (GMIC)

SUBJECT: Status Report on Progress of Ad Hoc Subcommittee for
Exchange of Guided Missile Intelligence Information

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1. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Exchange of Guided Missile Intelligence Information has held five meetings. There is now agreement on the procedure for collecting the data necessary for analysis. It is expected that an additional two months beyond the stipulated 1 February date will be required to submit the final report to GMIC.

2. The meetings to date have involved discussions of many aspects of the problem and tentative sampling of different approaches to a solution. Progress has been hampered by:

a. Inability of some members to attend meetings regularly.

b. The progressive and almost complete change in personnel composition since the Subcommittee was formed.

c. The difficulty of devoting the large amounts of time necessary for such a complex study in detail.

3. Some of the factors considered were:

a. Volume of data. Is it desirable to request that all data collected be disseminated or should some selective process be undertaken prior to dissemination?

b. Types of information collected. Is it desirable to learn what types of information is flowing into each member agency? Will such information be freely given? Can the mission of the Subcommittee be performed without this knowledge?

c. Reading Panels. Can interagency membership on the various reading panels achieve the necessary lateral flow of information, or are additional aids needed?

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d. Policy of member agencies. Is there a calculated impediment to free lateral flow of information, or are such impediments that exist due to failure of member agencies to submit requirements?

e. Capacity to assimilate. Is the staff of each member agency adequate to cope with a complete lateral flow of information, or will the needs of some agencies be filled by a selective flow.

f. Dissatisfaction of each member agency. Do all feel the need for greater lateral flow? What instances of unsatisfactory lateral flow have been experienced?

4. The general feeling about the above factors are:

a. While it is probably not desirable to disseminate all data collected, presently there is a tendency to be too selective.

b. Before it is possible to conclude whether or not there is a satisfactory lateral flow of information, it is necessary to know what classes of information each agency collects and how distribution is made. It is not felt the mission of the Subcommittee can be performed without this knowledge.

c. Reading panels can be useful only for collateral information; other aids would be needed for special intelligence.

d. So far as is known; there is no official policy of impediment to the free lateral flow of information. The timing of the release of such information is, however, worthy of further investigation.

e. While the agencies have widely differing analytic ability, full information should still be sent to all. Any limitation should be at the request of the member agency.

f. The member agencies have different degrees of dissatisfaction with the lateral flow of information, ranging from firm dissatisfaction expressed by the CIA Member to complete satisfaction expressed by the Air Force Member.

5. The agreed upon procedure for further study by the Subcommittee is for each member agency to tabulate all classes of information being collected by the agency and indicate thereon the distribution being given this data. Upon receipt of these, each member will examine the tabulations of the other members and decide which are not being adequately distributed. This will account for the standard operating procedures. Safeguards against failure of this procedure will then be studied.

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6. Pending accomplishment of the actions indicated in paragraph 5, above, no valid conclusions can be given. However, based on the discussions to date, the following views are prevalent:

a. Substantial gains can be achieved in the lateral flow of guided missile information. Free cooperation of all agencies is required.

b. Many of these gains can be achieved by relatively minor remedial actions; e.g., submission of current and adequate requirements to each other member agency and revision of reading panel guides.

c. Agency internal distribution systems are believed to be a contributing factor to the general dissatisfactions.

d. Some improvements have already been achieved in the general discussions at each of the Subcommittee meetings.

e. A complete and thorough analysis of those factors affecting the lateral flow of information will require considerably more time. If major gains are to be made in lateral distribution, a detailed study must be undertaken and may be completed by 1 April 1958.

Chairman

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REVISED MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR
AD HOD SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EXCHANGE OF
GUIDED MISSILE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

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Chairman, CIA

Major S. Matthews, Army

Mr. Robert C. Wycoff, Navy

Captain Boyd, Air Force

Colonel Robert H. Stumpf, Joint Staff (designated member, has not been able to attend)

NSA (designated member, but only able to attend once)

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